

Appl. No. 10/770,795
Amdt. Dated March 7, 2006
Reply to Office action of September 7, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Specification

While no specific comments were directed towards the language of the abstract, the abstract has been amended herewith to conform more closely to the general guidelines presented by the Examiner.

Paragraph [0001] has been amended as requested by the Examiner to include the patent number for the now issued parent application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

Claim 17 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 17 has been cancelled herewith.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-11, and 16-19 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maguire. Claims 1-11, and 16-19 have been cancelled herewith.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 21-24 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maguire in view of Escher. Claims 21-24 have been cancelled herewith.

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Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to Claims 25-30 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 25-30 have been amended herewith.

Given the amendments to the claims of record after this amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 25-30, as amended herewith, are allowable over the art made of record.

New Claims

Claim 31 has been added with this amendment.

Conclusion

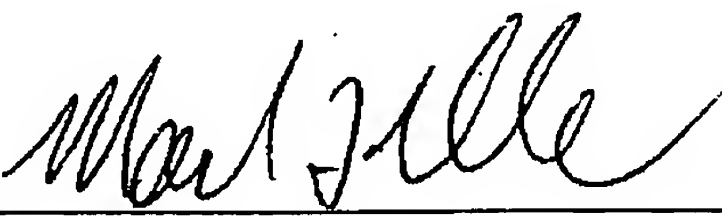
In light of the Examiner's earlier restriction requirement, Applicant retains the right to present claims 12-15 and claim 20 in a divisional application. Similarly, all claims cancelled herewith are cancelled without prejudice and Applicant retains the right to present these claims in a subsequently filed continuation application.

As for the remaining claims, none of the cited art, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest the unique combination of features in Applicant's claims presently on file. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that all of Applicant's claims, as presently constituted, are allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case at the earliest possible date. Applicant represents hereby that no new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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